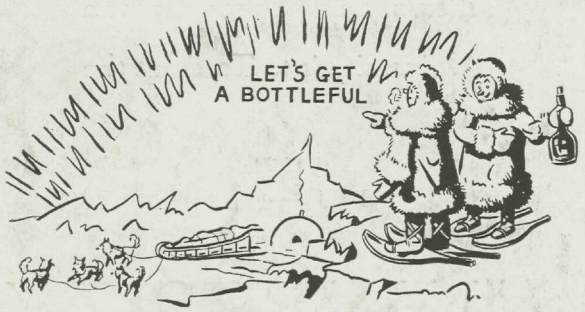
G-E Campus News

MICROANALYSIS

IN ordinary chemical analysis, where material is plentiful, the work is done on a scale most suitable for obtaining the results sought. Samples are relatively abundant; they may be used prodigally.

Not always, however, is the material for test so plentiful. The General Electric Research Laboratory at Schenectady, N. Y., handles the exceptions with its facilities for "microchemistry," in which the amount of test material available controls both the scale of operations and the strategy of attack. Microanalyst Charles Van Brunt, Harvard, '92, of the laboratory staff is prepared to test material whose limit in smallness is set only by the refinements of manipulation attainable under the microscope with the aid of a "micromanipulator."

Seldom does Van Brunt attempt to identify or classify materials in solution volumes less than a cubic millimeter (about the size of a pinhead). But to analyze an ordinary drop, as delivered from a medicine dropper, is comparatively coarse work for him—near the upper limit of the true microchemical range.

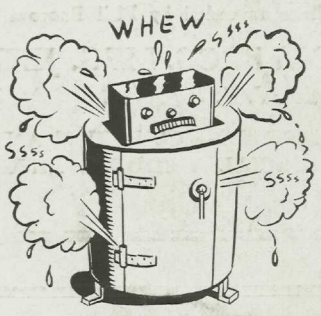


FROZEN LIGHT

THE "late" Baron Munchausen was accredited (by himself) with incredible feats among which was freezing the ring of a bell. Recently, however, General Electric Research Laboratory scientists at Schenectady, N. Y., outdid the Baron by freezing light.

In producing this frozen light, G-E scientists submerged fluorescent plates in a large thermos bottle of liquid air with a temperature of 320 degrees below zero. The bottle and the plates were then bombarded by x-rays, exciting the atoms of fluorescent material on the plates literally freezing them stiff. When the plates were removed and allowed to warm up, they glowed with all the colors of the rainbow.

A "bottle" of frozen light was sent to East Orange, N. J., where it was unveiled in connection with the ceremonies marking the premiere of the motion picture, "Edison, The Man."



RADIO TURKISH BATH

RATS and moisture seem to be the two chief enemies of radio sets in the tropics. A letter from the Belgian Congo testifies to the rats; the evidence for the humidity is already ample. Except for recommending traps, there is little the General Electric Company can do about the rats, but the study of humidity is right up its alley since G-E engineers at Bridgeport, Conn., have built a humidity chamber capable of reproducing the weather conditions of the tropics.

Lamps under water tanks provide humidity by vaporization, and generate enough heat to maintain a temperature of about 100 F. Humidity and temperature are controlled by time clocks outside the sealed chamber, while uniform weather conditions are maintained within the chamber by circulating fans.

Radio receivers placed in this room are continuously subjected to conditions far more severe than those of the tropics until failures occur in the sets. In this way, young engineering college graduates enrolled in the G-E Test Course gather data which contribute to the improvement of radio, not only in the tropics, but everywhere that radios are used.

GENERAL ELECTRIC

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